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TOWNSALEM

Volume 19 – Issue I

March 2012



Camping in Salem... pg. 4

Fresh From the Farm... pg. 6

Yarnbombing Contest... pg. 10

www.salemct.gov

SALEM TOWN INFORMATION www.salemct.gov

Salem Town Offices

270 Hartford Road
Phone: (860) 859-3873

Office Hours: First Selectman, Town Clerk,
Assessor & Tax Collector
Mon.-Wed. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thurs. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fri. Closed for routine
business (*elected officials available for urgent matters*)

Salem Free Public Library

264 Hartford Rd., Phone/Fax (860) 859-1130
Mon. to Thurs. Noon to 8 p.m.
Fri. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Salem School District

200 Hartford Road
Phone: (860) 892-1223
FAX: (860) 859-2130

www.salemschools.org

Salem School - (860) 859-0267
Special Education Office - (860) 859-3988

Salem Police Department

270 Hartford Rd. (860) 859-3873 ext. 200 or 210
EMERGENCY 911

Salem Transfer Station

189 Rattlesnake Ledge Rd. (860) 859-2964
Wed., Sat., Sun., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Permits required – can be obtained by Salem residents
at transfer station only

Animal Control Officer

Van Miller (860) 319-1306

State Senator 20th District

Andrea Stillman (860) 443-8568
www.senatedems.ct.gov/Stillman.html

State Representative 37th District

Ed Jutila (860) 739-7730
www.housedems.ct.gov/Jutila

U.S. Senators & Representatives

<http://blumenthal.senate.gov/contact>
<http://lieberman.senate.gov/index.cfm/contact/email-me-about-an-issue>
<http://courtney.house.gov/index.cfm?sectionid=148>

Town of Salem Live TV

Taped broadcasts of Salem Boards and Commissions
are aired on Cable Channel 12

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photo on cover by: Kerri Salan

News and Notes from . . . **OUR TOWN**

Read about what's new in Salem and learn how to become more involved in shaping the town's future

From the Office of the First Selectman

Dear Fellow Townspeople,

After our mild winter, spring has arrived. I hope you and your families are looking forward to the longer days and many activities our town provides.

Let's review what has been going on in our town:



Sidewalk – Phase One

We have substantial completion of Phase One of the sidewalk from Salem School to the town library. Work was suspended in December and resumed in March. Phase One will have final grading, top soil and grass seed applied. Phase Two will continue at the north end of the Town Green and connect up to the library sidewalk.

We will then have safe passage for our students and residents to walk between Salem School and our Municipal Complex.

2012 CIRMA Risk Management Award

The Town of Salem has been recognized by its insurance provider in the category of "Establishing Risk Management as an Organizational Priority." As a result of the risk management efforts and initiatives, the town has reduced lost work days from 95 in 2005-2006 to zero in 2010-2011 while reducing Town Net Incurred from \$ 79,876.00 to \$0.

I want to thank each and every town employee for their effort in making safety a top priority in our town.

Town Budget

Through firm enforcement of our purchasing policy, strong negotiations with all vendors and fiscal responsibility by all departments, General Government returned \$255,750.00 to the town's General Fund from our 2010-2011 budget. Thank you to all departments for this joint effort in using our town funds wisely.

Activity at Four Corners

The roundabout construction is set to begin in April. Please register to receive e-mail updates on the roundabout construction at SalemCT.gov.

Community Pavilion

Our community pavilion is substantially complete on our Route 82 property. Minor work will continue this spring to bring it to full completion.

We are excited about the many opportunities for gatherings at our pavilion. A Farmer's Market is in the works to begin in

late June. The pavilion will be available for our many town organizations as well as residents who wish to reserve it for specific events.

Single Stream Recycling

Single stream recycling is making us money as we get paid for recycling tons and save money on our trash tons. It has a positive fiscal effect of \$36,000.00 annually on our town and is better for our environment.

Thank you all for your recycling efforts.

Grant for Recycling Container and Energy Efficient Appliances

We received an \$8,001.00 grant for purchase of single stream recycling containers for our parks and recreational areas. Expect to see these new containers in our recreational areas by early summer.

Get Involved

If you have thought about helping your town, please come forward. We need good people to serve as Emergency Responders, Friends of the Salem Library, and members of the PTO, Lions Club, Historical Society, and many more organizations that serve our town. Salem runs on volunteers. Many volunteers comment to me that the rewards they receive from sharing their time and talents are priceless. Please call my office at (860)859-3873 ext. 110. I will be glad to sit down and discuss the many opportunities available for you to serve our town.

I want to thank all of the dedicated volunteers who give so much of their time and talent to make our town of Salem a better place to live.

Enjoy the season. I hope to see you around town at one of our many activities.

I am honored to be your First Selectman.

Respectfully,

Kevin Lyden



Camping in Salem

By Anne Rowthorn

Long before moving to Salem, my first knowledge of the town came through its campgrounds. We had some neighbors in Hamden, Bill and Margaret Schlesinger, who had a camping trailer, first at Witch Meadow Lake Campground and then at Salem Farms Campground. Margaret spent the whole summer in Salem with her daughters, Ellen and Liz, and Bill came for weekends and holidays. Bill and Margaret have now passed on but Ellen still comes to Salem, bringing her own children to enjoy the same kind of carefree, natural outdoor living she enjoyed so much as a child.

I wanted to find out for myself just what the Schlesinger family was talking about, so I visited all of Salem's four campgrounds and learned that theirs is a familiar story—generations of families are very devoted to Salem and call our town their summer home. If there is one word that typifies camping in Salem, it is family.

All of the campground owners and operators feel proud that camping promotes wholesome family life. Larry Harrington, the operator of Indianfield Co-operative Campground, said, "We are friendly, family-oriented, and we want everyone to have fun together." Deborah Caldwell, the owner of Witch Meadow Lake Campground, remarked "I want to promote families. We sponsor family activities every day. I want families to have fun together as family units." Brian Cinea, who owns Salem Farms Campground, summed up by saying, "Camping is all about families."

Most campers who call Salem their summer home come from more urban places in Connecticut, as well as from Long Island, New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts. With the exception of Sna-Z-Spot campers, very few are Salem residents, although several Salem families maintain campers at the campgrounds.

On a busy summer weekend, campers and their guests almost double the town's population and they come from all over. "Snowbirds," mostly retired people, spend winters in Texas, the Carolinas and Florida and migrate north to Salem in the summer. Salem's campgrounds also welcome guests from Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Austria and the Netherlands. They stay anywhere from one or two nights to the whole sum-



*Indianfield Co-operative Campground -
Photo credit: the Bennett family*

mer. They bring their own campers or tents, or they rent campers for their visits.

Each of Salem's four campgrounds has a different personality. Two of them are located on Gardner Lake: Indianfield Co-operative Campground and Sna-Z-Spot. Witch Meadow Lake and Salem Farms Campgrounds are down the road from each other on Witch Meadow and Alexander Roads.

Indianfield is unique in that it is a cooperative campground. Its two hundred and thirteen sites are owned jointly

by their residents, while 13 sites are rented. Waterfront activities are a major draw with its 140 boat slips, 30 Jet Ski slips and a swimming beach. Indianfield has more a look of a seasonal community than a campground in that many of the mobile homes seem like small cottages. Established in 1918, it is Salem's oldest campground and over the years it has had several names and owners. Early on, Vaudeville acts came in to entertain campers. In the 1940s, New York City owners brought boys to Salem to escape the city summer heat. Since 1988, Indianfield has been a co-operative campground and it has been managed by Larry and Molly Harrington since 1984. Molly recalls, "We came for a Fourth of July weekend and we never left." They raised their own children there and now they are seeing a fourth generation of campers.

Sna-Z-Spot also has a beach, boat dock and boat slip rentals. Sna-Z-Spot is an old-fashioned style of campground with neither electricity, nor electrical hook-ups. Campers pump their water from wells. Sna-Z-Spot's attractions are what nature has to offer—a sandy beach, swimming and boating, the companionship of other campers, and the enjoyment of living in the calmness of the woods below the towering tree-top. Jennie and Edward Snarski and Helen and Peter Zaleski bought the woodlands in 1954 and developed the property into a campground. The current generation of Snarski family members continues to operate it. Campers help out with the maintenance of the property which, according to one of the family members, is "The land that time forgot": quiet, peaceful and beautiful.

Witch Meadow Lake Campground occupies a lovely, undulating 140 acre site surrounding a 14-acre freshwater pond where

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campers enjoy swimming, boating, fishing and just relaxing on the sandy beach. It is well-kept and immaculate, and facilities include tennis courts and a miniature golf course. Deborah Caldwell has owned and operated Witch Meadow Campground since 1988 and she is very committed to insuring that each camper has lots of fun and relaxation. She likes the idea of multigenerational activities enhancing a sense of family togetherness.

The 160-acre Salem Farms Campground was started by a New Haven company in 1980. When Teresa and Brian Cinea, the current owner/operators, came in 2003, the property was in a run-down condition. With the help of their children, Corey, Amy, Melissa and Christopher, they have worked hard to restore and improve the campground. Facilities include tennis courts, a petting zoo, two swimming pools and an ambitious roster of activities, including movies, bands and DJs every weekend. Twice a season there is a "ceremonial burn," a huge bonfire supervised by Brian Cinea, a Fire Police captain in the Salem Volunteer Fire Company, and his son, Christopher, who is a lieutenant in the company. The burn is accompanied by an acoustical band and sing-a-long campfire songs.

Indianfield, Witch Meadow Lake and Salem Farms are modern, full-service campgrounds with recreation halls, snack bars, coin-operated laundries, cable TV and hi-speed Internet service. Indianfield has a Social Committee that plans activities for the campers. Witch Meadow and Salem Farms employ full time recreation directors who organize a wide range of daytime and evening activities for children and adults. Please check their Web sites for the full list. Just a few of them include: arts and crafts, dances, games, hikes, tug-of-war, hayrides, karaoke, dances, bonfires, and dinners. At Salem Farms and Witch Meadows, Christmas comes in July, complete with visits from Santa. Baby and bridal showers, reunions and anniversary celebrations are planned by campers. Deborah Caldwell, the owner of Witch Meadow Lake, cooks turkeys for Thanksgiving in September and campers bring all the side dishes. This is a very popular event.

Campgrounds are romantic locations for weddings, especially at Witch Meadow and Indianfield, where weddings are frequent. Last summer eight couples renewed their marriage vows at Witch Meadow. There are several campers who are

SALEM'S CAMPGROUNDS

Check Web sites for pictures, activities, fees and other details, or call.

Indianfield Co-operative Campground

306 Old Colchester Road

(860) 859-1320

www.indianfieldcampground.com

Salem Farms Campground

39 Alexander Road

(860) 859-2320

www.salemfarmscampground.com

Sna-Z-Spot

308 Old Colchester Road

(860) 859-7547

Witch Meadow Lake Campground

139 Witch Meadow Road

(860) 859-1542

www.witchmeadowcampground.com

justices of the peace at Indianfield and typically couples have both weddings and receptions in the camps.

When asked to describe the typical camper, all the operators mentioned that they are families. Larry Harrington of Indianfield said, "They come from all walks of life. Most of them are looking for a quiet get-away." Brian Cinea and Deborah Caldwell said their typical camper is a family person—a wife and husband with from two to four children. Sna-Z-Spot's typical camper is a retiree who may have moved to a warmer climate and returns to Salem in the summer to be close to local family and friends.

All the owner/managers live on or very close to their campgrounds. They are hard-working, dedicated and enthusiastic about the roles of their campgrounds in our community. As Deborah Caldwell said, "It's a 24-7 operation." They are all proud of their campgrounds and pleased by what their campers contribute to Salem. Ms. Caldwell pointed out that campers patronize town businesses where they buy coffee, take-out Chinese food, pizza and gas. The Harringtons encourage their campers to shop locally and to enjoy Salem's small town atmosphere.

Our Town Salem is pleased campers affectionately call our town Salem their summer home, and finally I know why my friends, Bill and Margaret, came to Salem year after year.

Anne Rowthorn's new book, *The Wisdom of John Muir: 100+ Selections from the Letters, Journals, and Essays of the Great Naturalist*, will be published by Wilderness Press and available April 10 through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



Salem Valley Farms - Photo credit: Melissa Cinea

Fresh from the Farm

By Elizabeth C. Regan

Kerry and Max Taylor have dirt under their fingernails even on a wet winter morning. These farming transplants arrived at Salem's historic Woodbridge Farm late last year to start a biodynamic Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) venture they named Provider Farm. Biodynamics guides this newly married couple to treat the farm, with all its varied components, as one integrated system. Animals, vegetables and minerals combine to make Provider Farm its own living organism.

The Taylors live on-site in the Nathaniel S. Woodbridge house, which was built in 1792 in the Colonial style and later expanded upon in Colonial Revival fashion. Work boots and farming gear line the entryway with clear purpose, while root vegetables hang out in baskets throughout the hallway and kitchen. On an unseasonably rainy day in January, an open laptop combines with lighting fixtures to brighten the cozy kitchen. Outside, the herd of 15 cattle—a mixture of Devons, Jerseys and Devon-Jersey crosses—has been fed and cared for. Administrative successes for the morning include the hiring of one apprentice and the extension of an offer to another. And all this happens before 10 a.m.

The winter months are spent largely in preparation for Provider Farm's CSA season, which begins offering shareholders a wide array of vegetables, herbs and fruits in June and extends through November. The chemical free produce is grown on 11 acres of Provider Farm's land as well as eight acres of rented soil on the Gadbois property. It's three to four times the amount of land utilized by the previous managers of Woodbridge Farm last year.

The planting begins in the greenhouse in March, with the farmers' efforts spilling out into the fields in May as they prepare the land and sow the seeds. June heralds the start of harvesting and of the distribution of farm shares. Shareholders are invited to pick up their produce from 2-7 p.m. on Fridays during the CSA season.

Kerry sees the Friday pick-ups as an important part of bringing community members onto the farm and finding out firsthand what it has to offer. "One of our goals is to make the farm a vibrant part of the community," she says. To that end, they plan to bring in other local goods, such as bread from Farm to Hearth bakery, to sell on Fridays. They will also sell their own beef and veal. While they are taking a year off from production at the farm's creamery, they plan to revive it next year so that they can add cheese and other dairy products to



the Provider Farm offerings.

Max has found that children, especially, enjoy being on the farm. "It's a great thing for families with young children because they come to the farm to pick up their vegetables and they get to see where their food comes from and they can see the animals," he says.

To partake of the fresh-from-the-farm bounty, a customer must purchase a CSA share before the season starts. Provider Farm offers small (5-6 lbs/week), regular (10-15 lbs/week) and large (15-20 lbs/week) shares that range in price from \$425 to \$675. These up-front payments allow the Taylors to cover the operating costs that start to pile up before they have anything to sell.

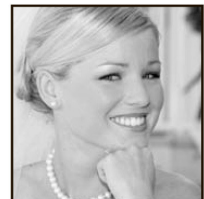
Though biodynamic principles go above and beyond organic standards, the Taylors have chosen not to apply for certification as an organic farm by the USDA. "USDA organic labeling has its place," says Kerry, but adds that they do not currently feel the certification process is appropriate for their farm. Cost is a major concern. "If we have more expenses due to certification, that cost will get passed down to the shareholder. Part of

continued on page 7

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OUR TOWN - SALEM

our goal is to offer an affordable vegetable share, so we want to cut our costs in whichever ways we feel we can," she says.

One of the advantages of the local farm is that customers can see for themselves where and how their food is being produced. Max and Kerry strongly encourage potential customers to come down to the farm to look at their fields and animals. "It's our goal to provide people with all the vegetables they need so we can become an essential part of feeding their family," Max says.

The beginning of the CSA season marks the busiest time of the year on the farm. Rising at 5 a.m., the farmers take care of the animals and do morning chores before entering the greenhouse. A stop for breakfast leads into work alongside the apprentices in the vegetable fields. An hour-long lunch signals mid-day. Harvesting, weeding, and plant care round out the afternoon in different rotations depending on the day of the week and its proximity to Friday's distribution period. Then it's time for more animal chores. The apprentices will depart at dinnertime, though Kerry and Max will be back cultivating plants after they eat.

Max uses modern farm-speak to put it this way: "We work from dark until dark-thirty most days." But it's a labor of love. "It takes a lot of work and there's not a lot of money in it, but we both really love farming and I can't imagine doing anything else," he says.

The Taylors come to Provider Farm with experience as assistant managers at separate CSA farms. Each one honed different skills that make the couple well-suited to run their new farm together. Kerry, who worked at Amherst, Massachusetts' Brookfield Farm, the third oldest CSA in the country, gained experience in administration as well as some of the more practical areas like fencing and irrigation. Max, on the other hand, worked at Riverland Farm in Sunderland, Massachusetts, which was just getting its start as a CSA when he signed on. His work on that young but production-focused farm lends him unique insights into growing a farming business. He is also the go-to farmer at Provider Farm when it comes to mechanical tasks like repairing tractors.

Additional expertise rolls into Provider Farm several times a week in the form of Kerry's father, Larry Manire, who makes the drive from Rhode Island. Having learned the ropes at Brookfield Farm from Kerry, he is now able to share his skills as a handyman and, as the Taylors put it, "fix everything we break." It's no coincidence that the Taylors found a farm in commuting distance of Kerry's fix-it father; in fact, they planned it that way from the start.

Provider Farm has also received invaluable assistance from the property's owner, Anne Bingham, and her family. "They've been really open to us and really receptive," says Kerry. It was the vision of Anne and her late husband, Tony, that led to the creation of a biodynamic farm. Anne Bingham employed farm managers up until the Taylors leased the farm in 2011.

As Kerry and Max settle into life on Provider Farm, the earth under their fingernails is a direct manifestation of their guiding

principle. "Soil is our most precious resource and the foundation of our farm," they write on their Web site, www.providerfarm.com. "Healthy soil makes a healthy farm. Soil is a complex living organism that needs to be fed and cared for like any other living thing."

The Taylors are proud of the service they are able to offer the people of Salem and surrounding areas. Max describes a sense of awe when it comes to doing what they love to do and making a difference in the lives of so many people. "I take great personal satisfaction in being able to feed people," he says. "If we grow food for 200 CSA shares, that's feeding between 600 and 800 people, which is just an amazing feeling. And it lets us be outside and keeps us in shape and we also eat really well."

"When we can find time to cook," Kerry adds with a laugh.

Farmers Kerry and Max Taylor welcome you to


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Local Voices are the . . .

TALK OF THE TOWN

Residents share their stories in columns related to various aspects of Salem life

SALEM'S TOP 10 TREASURES:

A Newcomer's Perspective

By Megan Ellis

- #1** A scone from Farm to Hearth bakery – go early, they sell out quickly!
- #2** A giant grinder from Salem Prime Cuts. Now that's satisfying!
- #3** The peaceful retirement provided to horses at Mitchell Farm.
- #4** Speaking of horses, the wide variety of equine and other pet and garden necessities available at Salem Feed & Grain.
- #5** The bird-lover's paradise at Wings and Things.
- #6** Checking out what time it is in any other "Salem" on the clocks in the post office at Babe's Deli.
- #7** Reindeer Flight Food in my mailbox just before Christmas, courtesy of Uncle Larry's Products, LLC.
- #8** Fresh tomatoes on my pizza from The Plum Tomato.
- #9** Driving by Salem Valley Farms Ice Cream Co. every day and wishing it was spring already!
- #10** The serene white blanket outside my window when I wake up the morning after a snow.

Megan Ellis recently moved to Salem from North Carolina. She is the Volunteer Manager and an instructor at High Hopes Therapeutic Riding, Inc. in Old Lyme. Megan lives with her horse, Spirit, and two dogs, Roxy and Lina.

The Scoop from the School

Cans for a Good Cause

By Megan Aldrich

During the week of December 19, 2011, Salem Middle School held Spirit Week. Monday through Thursday, students were allowed to dress unlike any other days of the year. Monday's theme encouraged students to dress like teachers and teachers to dress like students. Around the building, staff and student alike wore ties, sweatshirts, running shoes, button down shirts, and even some long skirts. Tuesday was Mix and Match day! This time,



not only could you wear plaid and stripes, but even flannel pants and a tie! Wednesday was even crazier. You could wear a hat or a crazy wig. Finally, on the last day of school Spirit Week, you could wear your grade's color to help the school determine which grade showed the most school spirit.

To finish off the week, Ms. Hyman, the middle school band director and music teacher, led the band in peppy tunes that got the whole middle school excited about the Spirit assembly. During the assembly, students and staff members raced in an obstacle course that in the end earned each grade level team points.

Seventh grade student Lillian Whittaker enjoyed the unique opportunities presented over the course of the week. "I was proud to show my spirit for my school. It was a break from our regular routine," she said.

It was not just all fun and games that week at Salem School. In order to participate in the week's activities, students had to donate non-perishable food items or "Change for Change." At the end of the assembly, Principal Moran announced that the Leaders Club had collected 950 non-perishable food items that the students donated. The Change for Change fund total was \$412.18 in support of the Salem Need Fund. Great job to everyone in the Salem Middle School! We should all keep up the good work.

Curriculum Management at Salem School

By Benjamin Dix, Director of Special Programs

The primary purpose of education at Salem School is to provide for the intellectual, ethical, physical, emotional, and social growth of all students which is necessary for them to successfully function as productive citizens in an ever-changing world. The Salem School District also recognizes the characteristics unique to each individual and provides a process for the development and expression of each student's unique abilities and talents. The Curriculum Management Cycle provides the structure to ensure quality implementation and monitoring of the curriculum and instructional process.

Phase one of the Curriculum Management Cycle involves program evaluation as well as research and curriculum development. Curriculum design and delivery will be consistent with state and federal guidelines. Research and development assures that the curriculum will be designed, developed, and documented to promote similarity among the written, the taught, and the tested curricula. The designed program in each content area will be planned, ongoing, and systematic.

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Phase two of the Curriculum Management Cycle involves program implementation and program monitoring. Curriculum will be implemented according to state and national standards in each content area. Program Monitoring involves determining which parts of the curriculum are working, what is not working, what to change, and what to keep. Monitoring is used to assess the quality of what is going on following the implementation of new or revised programs.

E-books

The demand for e-books has increased dramatically. The entire field is in flux with rapid and confusing changes. Yes, the Salem Library offers e-books. Right now we are only offering e-books which we share with the entire library consortium, Bibliomation, so there is a wait for some of the e-books in high demand. However, in the near future, Salem Library will be buying more e-books for our own patrons. The library does not have an unlimited budget. The library has to purchase wisely, and we have had to sit back and wait to see how digital books and the digital world is advancing. But we have entered the fray!



Salem Library Has Entered the Digital Age

By Jackie Hemond

The Salem Free Public Library is now offering continuing education classes through Universal Class for Libraries, an online educational service that offers more than 500 different classes covering topics appealing to a variety of interests.

Salem Library cardholders (Salem and Bozrah residents) can access Universal Class by going online to salemct.gov and clicking on the Universal Class link.

Once registered, a library cardholder can enroll for up to five classes at a time, covering a wide area of topics including computers, yoga, digital photography, business, arts and crafts, social sciences, finance, real estate, writing skills, psychology, history and much more. The student has six months to complete a class. Lessons are created by real-world instructors who can be contacted via email for assistance. Some of the courses are certified, and may be used as continuing education courses for teachers and other professions. However, most of the classes by Universal Class are non-credit and for personal enrichment.

In order to advance to the next lesson, there may be required reading assignments or tests. When a class is completed, it is no longer counted as one of the maximum five classes and a student can begin a new class.

Universal Class is just one on-line source provided by The Salem Free Public Library to its patrons. Through the library's Web site, patrons can also connect to:

- JobNow! a one-on-one job coaching for interview skills, resume help and job searching
- PrepMe a personalized preparation program for PSAT, ACT and SAT tests
- Learning Express which provides practice tests, exercises, e-books and skill-building courses for elementary age children through adults
- E-books and Downloadable Audiobooks




"Take Your Child to the Library Day" was held on February 4 at the Salem Free Public Library. As part of the statewide event, the Salem library welcomed book characters Beauty and the Beast, played by Salem School Theater Club members Megan Aldrich and Dylan Worrell. They greeted over 30 kids and had photos taken with them. *Pictured from left to right: Megan Aldrich, Amelia Marcelynas, Dylan Worrell, Art Marcelynas and Jonah Marcelynas.*

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Yarnbombing & a CONTEST for You

By Liz Householder



The current issue of Yankee Magazine has a one-page article about a new trend called Yarnbombing. It started in Vancouver, British Columbia, and has spread across the continent, and is rumored to be showing up around the world. There are even books about this and, if you Google

the word "Yarnbombing," you will find quite a few links, including the obvious yarnbombing.com.

So what is it? Starting with yarn – and bright, noticeable colors seem to be the favorite choice by Yarnbombers – pieces are crocheted or knitted into a kind of covering for things like bench legs, light poles, bike racks, and railings. Some of these pieces are really creative, and include hats, pom poms, and even animal shapes. There's no discernible reason for doing this, other than to offer a little bit of whimsy someplace you least expect it, and to make us all notice our surroundings a little more. It's a surprise, and who doesn't like surprises?

So, we figured in snowy, cold New England, maybe we could offer a little fun to our fellow Salemites, and anyone else who reads Our Town Salem. That's how the Yarnbombing Contest was born. We've included a photo of one example already in Salem in this article, so you get an idea of what we're talking about.

Here's the contest, and where you come in - If you see an example of Yarnbombing here in Salem (and there's a small army out there right now doing it) send an email to salemyarn@gmail.com and tell us where you saw it. Submissions will be accepted until April 30, and whoever finds the most places where they've seen yarnbombing will win a \$20 gift certificate to the Salem business of their choice. Are you up for the challenge?

Spring Scents

By Diane Gilbert

Soon the delightful sounds and smells of spring will be upon us...fresh flowers... newly mowed grass... the sound of peep frogs... Unfortunately spring can also bring some not-so-pleasant odors. Small mammals become more active in the spring, the skunk being perhaps our most aromatic—and often the most misunderstood.

Skunks tend to be dormant during the coldest winter months but by late winter/early spring they have begun mating. Female skunks will give birth any time between mid-spring and early summer.

Skunks are actually very docile creatures, rarely showing aggression. If you encounter a skunk, the best strategy is to remain still, keep quiet and slowly retreat. Skunks are mild-tempered animals with very poor vision. They will not defend themselves unless they are cornered or harmed. They usually provide a warning before discharging their scent: stamping their forefeet rapidly and arching their tails over their backs. Those of us familiar with skunks know that it takes a lot to get sprayed.

Usually nomadic in nature, a skunk who has established a consistent abode has either found a good food source (outdoor cat food, easily accessible trash) or, in springtime, it is a mother skunk with kits. The mom will find a place to den in order to house her litter, which can be anywhere from 2 to 10 kits. Typically they will den under wood and rock piles, elevated sheds, openings under concrete slabs or porches and crawl spaces under houses. A common call to a wildlife rehabber in the spring or early summer involves a skunk who has taken up residence on the caller's property and may have had a confrontation with a family pet. Mother skunks are quite protective of their young and it is one of the times they may wield their only defense weapon.

If you encounter a skunk who has taken up residency and there is no available food source in the area, then there is a good possibility it's a mother with a litter. If at all possible try to ride it out and not disturb the den. Once they are weaned (about 6 weeks) they will start venturing out and eventually move on. Trapping and relocating a skunk in the spring quite often results in orphaning a litter. If you absolutely have to remove the skunk, call the American Humane Society for a list of humane animal control companies. They will try to re-



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continued on page 11

locate both the mother and the litter. Mother skunks keep their young pretty close. A baby skunk found wandering without the mom is probably orphaned and a wildlife rehabber should be contacted. Of course, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Measures can be taken to discourage skunks from sticking around. These include removing garbage and pet food left out at night and eliminating convenient denning sites such as wood and rock piles, elevated sheds, openings under concrete slabs and porches and access to crawl spaces under houses. They are not great climbers but very proficient diggers. Wire mesh gauze installed under sheds needs to go down several inches in to the ground to be an effective barrier.

Skunks eat mostly insects and small rodents, many of which are pests to humans. Hopefully with better understanding of these mild mannered animals we can all be more tolerant of their presence.



Diane Gilbert is licensed by the State of CT to care for injured/orphaned wildlife. You can contact her at gilberthcc@yahoo.com.

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Salem Lawn Care 101

By Diba Khan-Bureau

It is that time of year again when we look at our lawn and think, "Okay, what can I do differently this year and how can I make it look more appealing?"

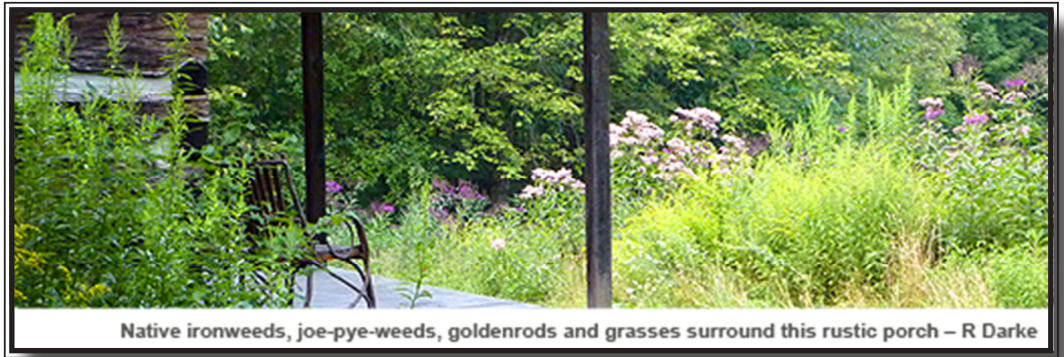
You may even ask ... "what can I do to ensure that I have plenty of water to water my gardens and lawn or how can I reduce and conserve water?"

Here are some ideas that are good for your lawn and gardens as well as your view of nature.

The most important and the cheapest thing you can do first is perform a soil test. Most people don't do this before fertilizing and putting lime down! You must determine what nutrients and elements are in, or missing from, your soil if you want a nice lawn and garden. You can save money too by avoiding buying the wrong fertilizer. A healthy soil provides the foundation for healthy plants, lawns, trees and shrubs. You will also want to be sure that your lawn isn't compacted, creating a lack of "good" microscopic organisms that contributes to making your soils healthy.

Another important thing to remember is this "Right plant, right place." If you have a shady area, plant a tree, shrub or flowering plant that is native and adapted to the conditions of your location.

Where did I hear "Right plant, right place"? I attended an intensive one week NOFA training course. NOFA stands for Northeast Organic Farming Association. I attended the NOFA Organic Land Care program. We CAN have beautiful healthy lawns without pesticides and herbicides. We CAN have healthy lawns without adding too much fertilizer. One thing that you may want to look into is reducing your lawn area and adding a native garden or two. Native plants in our landscape make for a beautiful garden and bring in



Native ironweeds, joe-pye-weeds, goldenrods and grasses surround this rustic porch – R Darke

native song birds, pertinent insects, butterflies, and reduces watering. Sustainable practices such as not using pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizer and using composted material from your own backyard is healthy for our ecosystem, our surface and ground water and healthy for you, your family and your pets too!

For more information, go to www.organiclandcare.net and check out the Homeowner Corner. The site provides information about soils, lawns and so many other things. If you have any questions about NOFA or this article, please feel free to email me at diba.khan-bureau@uconn.edu.

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Revaluation and Your Taxes

By William Weinschenker, Chairman,
Board of Finance

The Town of Salem has recently completed a revaluation of all real estate within the town. The revaluation was performed in accordance with the Connecticut State statutes that require the revaluation of real estate every ten years. The revaluation is intended to adjust the assessed value of real estate to reflect current market values for tax purposes. All Salem property owners should have received a report reflecting both the previous assessed value of their property and the new assessed value.

In order to understand how the new assessed value will affect your taxes, an understanding of the town's budgeting processes is required.

The few residents that routinely attend the Public Hearing and the Annual Town Meeting have seen the presentation "BUDGET 101" that describes the budgeting process and how tax rates are determined. For those that are not familiar with the process, here are the highlights.

The annual town budget is adopted via the Annual Town Meeting and a budget referendum. The funding required to support the budgeted appropriations is derived from grants from various state agencies, revenues from town services, and property taxes. Once the town budget is approved and the revenues from sources other than taxes are estimated the Board of Finance (BOF) determines the total amount of revenue that must be generated from local property taxes. That value is then divided by the Town's Grand List, the total assessed value of all taxable property within the town, to determine the tax rate (Mill Rate).

The Mill Rate represents the tax levied per \$1000 of assessed property value. Real estate is assessed at 70% of value, where personal property is assessed at 100% of value. The mill rate is multiplied by the individual's total assessed property value to determine the individual taxpayer's annual tax.

AN EXAMPLE:

First, using the current mill rate of 24.5 mills, a property owner having property with an assessed value of \$100,000 has a tax levy of \$2450

$$[\$100,000 / 1000] \times 24.5 \text{ mills} = \$2450$$

Now that we know how the tax levy is determined we can focus on the effects that revaluation has on property owners taxes. The BOF, as previously stated, uses the Grand List to determine the mill rate and revaluation has a large effect on the Grand List. Revaluation also has an effect on the property owner's assessed value. It can be seen from the tax levy formula, above, that both the mill rate and the assessed value are factors in determining the property owner's taxes. Does that mean that revaluation will have an effect on your taxes? Maybe, and here is why.

The revaluation that was just completed resulted in a decrease in the Grand List to approximately 83% of the previous year's Grand List. Therefore, assuming budgeted appropriations and funding from sources other than taxes remain constant, the BOF would be required to increase the mill rate to 29.5 in order to generate equal tax revenue to support the budgeted appropriations. The increased mill rate would apply to all property owners; however, it would be multiplied by the new assessed value of each property to determine that property owner's tax levy. If the individual property value decreased by 17% (the town wide average based on the Grand List) then that property owner's taxes would remain virtually the same.

$$[\$83,000 (83\% \text{ of } \$100,000) / 1000] \times 29.5 \text{ mills} = \$2449$$

If the individual property value decreased less than 17% then the property owner's taxes would be higher, while a property value decrease of more than 17% would result in a lower tax.

In summary, revaluation does not increase or decrease your taxes; however, those property owners with property that increased in value or decreased less than 17% can expect higher taxes. Property owners with property that decreased in value more than 17% can expect lower taxes. All of these tax figures are based on the assumption that the necessary tax revenue is constant. Increases or decreases to the town budget or increases or decreases to revenue from sources other than taxes affect the mill rate and property tax bills.

2012 Legislative Session Looks at Short-Term Economic Growth and Long-Term Prosperity

By Sen. Andrea L. Stillman, 20th District



With the General Assembly's 2012 Regular Session now underway anticipation has given way to the legislative process itself. Throughout the Legislative Office Building hundreds of bills are being studied, considered, and refined.

Despite encouraging employment figures in recent months that suggest a slowly improving economy, few would argue the need to remain focused on that sector of public policy this year.

This legislative session provides a timely opportunity to build upon economic development and job creation initiatives enacted last October. Landmark legislation at that time streamlined the state's permitting processes, provided incentives for business expansion, and retooled workforce training and development programs, all with an eye toward growing the local economy.

continued on page 14

Among this year's priorities is an adjustment to the package of small business incentives enacted last year. Many of the tax credits and hiring incentives approved apply to businesses with 50 employees or fewer; one proposal this year would be to expand that to businesses with 100 employees or fewer.

The straightforward logic behind this: when more small businesses are eligible for economic stimuli there are improved chances for economic growth among them.

Two other proposals are somewhat related. One would establish a 'CT Made' marketing program to raise awareness of and boost the prospects for 'Connecticut made' products. Similar to the successful 'CT Grown' program to promote locally grown farm products, 'CT Made' would identify in-state handiwork of local artisans and small companies with a distinct logo, establish a special Web site for them, and feature them in promotional and advertising campaigns.

Maine and New Hampshire each have comparable programs: Maine Made has over 2,000 business members and NH Made has more than 500. At present the Made in Connecticut Guild has only about 20 members so it would seem there's ample opportunity for growth and expansion.

As an aside, while watching the line of cars at a fast food outlet from a busy thoroughfare recently I couldn't help but think how beneficial it would be if just some of those customers ordered a meal to take home from a locally owned restaurant instead, keeping that money in local circulation and those profits closer to home.

Similarly, a proposed 'CT Treasures' marketing program would enhance and complement the state's effort to drive customers to businesses in and around the state's tourism destinations. Since there are so many educational components built into Connecticut's historic destinations the idea is to promote in-state visits to these sites as learning opportunities for young people and their families.

Another suggested way to help the unemployed rejoin the workforce is to prohibit would-be employers from discouraging applications from those who are out of work. Employment agencies and Web sites for job seekers sometimes include in their listings what might be considered discriminatory language directed at the unemployed.

Last year New Jersey became the first state in the nation to enact such a law; Connecticut could follow suit with a comparable statute to protect the rights and opportunities of all job seekers, regardless of employment status.

The 2012 legislative session is the shorter one in our two-year cycle. Nevertheless, it will include a full session's worth of important legislation aimed at short-term economic growth and long-term prosperity for Connecticut.

Andrea Stillman represents the 20th Senatorial District, which includes New London, Waterford, East Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Salem and Montville.

Red Light Cameras: Yea or Nay?

By State Rep. Ed Jutilla, 37th District



One hot-button issue the General Assembly will likely take up again this year is whether or not to allow municipalities to install cameras at intersections for purposes of red light enforcement. This is an initiative on which I will try to maintain an open mind, although I have voted against it in the past as a member of the Transportation Committee. The bill has never made it to the full House for a vote.

Elected officials in New Haven have been the most vocal proponents of legislation that would allow cities of a certain size to install such cameras at selected intersections, presumably focusing on those having the highest accident rates. Hartford officials have recently joined in support. These officials contend that the cameras will deter motorists from running the red lights and thereby reduce the number of intersection accidents.

Opponents of red light cameras are not convinced. They counter that studies show that where the number of so-called "T-Bone" crashes that occur in the center of intersections tend to diminish, rear end collisions increase as motorists slam on the brakes to avoid getting a ticket. Others are concerned that the cameras would violate their privacy, and that their use may even be unconstitutional.

Courts in various jurisdictions have upheld the use of these automated enforcement programs against challenges based on due process, equal protection and the fourth amendment prohibition on unreasonable search and seizure. The U.S. Supreme Court has held in other contexts that there is a lesser expectation of privacy in a motor vehicle than in other places such as our homes.

Still, opponents take issue with the presumption that the registered owner of the vehicle is the driver and that he or she actually committed the offense. They also cite the delay between the time the alleged offense occurs and receipt of the ticket in the mail, making it difficult or impossible to appeal the ticket.

Some foes also question the motives of the supporters, wondering whether this is really more about revenue generation for the cities and equipment vendors than the safety of other drivers and pedestrians. Finally, it is sometimes noted that there are alternatives to such intrusive mechanisms to improve safety, such as lengthening yellow light cycles and implementing short intervals during signal cycles that allow extra time for intersection clearance.

As I indicated at the outset, I have opposed similar initiatives in the past; however, I'd like to hear your views. Should we give the larger cities the green light to give intersection cameras a try? Or should we put the brakes on it? Let me know what you think.

Ed Jutilla represents the 37th Assembly District, which includes Salem and East Lyme.

Things to Do . . . AROUND TOWN

Find out what's happening in Salem this spring

Dining Around Salem

By Pat Aldrich

Farm to Hearth
26 New London Road, #3
Salem, CT



How does the famous quote go... "Man cannot live by Bread alone"? Well, if you happen to live in Salem you can, you really can!

I had not really thought about it until a friend posted on Facebook that she and her husband were having bread and cheese from Farm to

Hearth for dinner...well, along with some fruit and a bottle of Champagne! But hey, why not? The other night I made an elaborate dinner of coconut curry chicken, and I picked up a loaf of focaccia topped with roasted organic onions, fresh rosemary, and smoked sea salt, and it was all anyone could talk about at dinner! I could have served ANYTHING with that bread!

So here I am doing an edition of Dining Around Salem about a place that serves bread...but not just bread...and not just any bread...really good homemade, cooked on a wood fired oven, outstanding bread! Plus, every time I go in, which unfortunately for my waist line is too often, they have added something new! Really good cheeses, smoked meats, olive oils, balsamic vinegar, crackers, coffee, oh, and the best darn cookies you will ever have! I also appreciate that Local and Organic is the theme of this eclectic store.

I always dreamed of having my own bakery. When I was a kid, a friend of the family owned a bakery in Fairfield Conn. My older cousin worked there. I remember her saying they started baking at 3 a.m. -well, ever since then the notion of having to be up that early to start baking has always kept the dream from becoming reality for me. However, Todd Solek has kept that notion from squelching his dream of baking hearth baked bread and other yummy foods here in Salem.

When I asked him when he started his day, he said he started making bread at 7 a.m. Well, that is not so bad. His breads don't start coming out until around 4 p.m. though, and contin-

ue until after 7 p.m. For a Mom like me, that is a little late, and I personally wish the bread would start coming out at 3 p.m. so I could either pick up a loaf on my way home from work, or at least before we eat dinner at 5:30-6 p.m. However, this does not seem to be hurting the business at all, as every time I go to this place, people are waiting for the next bread to come out, and scraping for the bread that has already come in from the outdoor oven. I have yet to purchase a cool loaf of bread here.

It is definitely a family business. On my last visit, Todd and Melissa's little one was asleep, encased in a backpack on Melissa's back. The dedication, and long hours they put in, show in every unique loaf of bread. Along with the staples like Focaccia, Farmhouse, Seeded Country, and Oat & Flax, I have had Currant Coriander, Garlic Peppercorn, and my new personal favorite, Sour Cherry Lavender.

It makes me so happy to see a community gathering in this place, anticipating, chatting, smiling, and waiting for...not the latest electronic device, not tickets to a show, not anything superfluous ...but something as basic as bread!

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Submitted by Rev. Tim Dubeau



We are located on the Salem Green, Route 85, about 1½ miles north of Salem Four Corners (the intersection of routes 82 and 85). Visitors are always welcome. Call 860-859-1211 or 860-859-1925 or email us at salemcongregate@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Please check out our schedule of activities on our Web site at www.congregationalchurchsalem.org.

MEMORIAL DAY PRE-PARADE BREAKFAST

We will hold a Pre-parade Breakfast in the Christian Education building from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. on Memorial Day. There will also be a Christian Community Center fundraiser. Watch the local papers or check our Web site for details.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our summer kids' Vacation Bible School this year is called Sky. Sky will take place during the mornings of Monday, June 25 through

Thursday, June 28 (if makeup snow days for Salem school do not infringe upon these dates).

At Sky, faith and imagination soar as kids discover that everything is possible with God. Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and dig into yummy treats, experience electrifying Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them to trust God, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with Fly Away Finale—a celebration that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at 11:30 for each

day. Kids at Sky will join an international missions effort to squash malaria in the African country of Mali—sending more than a million mosquito nets to protect Malian children.

Sky is for kids from age four to completed 5th grade and will run from 9:00 a.m. to noon each day. You may register online beginning May 15th. Be sure and check out our Web site for details. For more information, call 860-859-1211.

Our Vacation Bible School ministry has been fully funded by the Congregational Church of Salem for well over three decades, thus there is no registration fee for any child of the proper age wanting to be enrolled. A voluntary offering is collected each day to support our missions project.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CENTER PROGRESS

We're moving ahead at a good clip!

As of this writing (1/31/2012), rough HVAC, electric and plumbing is complete. Insulation is in place and a contractor has begun hanging wallboard. Once completed, there will be plenty of priming and painting to tackle along with flooring and a large hung ceiling. Landscaping around the front of the building will be completed in the Spring with the placement of multiple retaining walls, walkways and planter areas. We're currently issuing bid packages for paving and exterior concrete work. We would like to utilize local contractors if possible to do the work. If you are interested in bidding or recommending a licensed and insured contractor, please contact Pastor Tim at 860-859-1925.

If you would like to be included on our volunteer list, please contact Pastor Tim. You will be notified of scheduled work dates and the type of work being done. We thank all those community and church family contributors who remain faithful to their financial commitments and look forward to a very busy year in which we hope to finish the project!

Stay tuned for more progress reports through Facebook and our Web site! As always, we're excited to think how this building will be used for many different community related events and programs. It will also be available to rent for private functions, including receptions, showers, birthday parties and other family events requiring a large comfortable space and commercial kitchen. We look forward to notifying all when the Certificate of Occupancy has been issued.

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LIONS TALES

*Submitted by
Lion George Ziegra*



It's springtime again! Salem Lions are super busy with our upcoming programs. See our calendar of events below. We hope to see many of you at these events. Everyone is welcome to participate.

The Salem Lions, in conjunction with other Salem groups, provided a Secret Santa to help some of our younger citizens enjoy a happy holiday. This project was a great success; many thanks to Lion Arn Weiss and all who helped collect and distribute the packages.



Left to right: Lion George Ziegra; Salem Lions Humanitarian Award winner, Judith Gadbois; Lion William Martin, president; and Stu Gadbois. *Photo by Wendy Jensen.*

On January 7, 2012, Lions District 23-C hosted an Evening to Honor Special Humanitarians at the Groton Motor Inn. This event honored non-Lions selected by their local Lions clubs for their humanitarian works. Congratulations to Judy Gadbois who received Salem Lions Humanitarian Award. Judy is a wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, friend to all, and a go-to woman in the Salem community. She is one of the "hearts" of Salem, epitomizing family values, friendship, and volunteerism. She has spent her life balancing the needs of her family with volunteering for church, business, and adult and youth community groups. Judy richly deserves this honor of recognition.

Sale of Super Bowl roses by Salem Lions was again a big success. The cut roses arrived and were delivered on February 2 and 3 by Salem Lions. If you missed out this year, we are planning this fundraiser again next year. A great gift to your spouse or a friend. Watch for details in the late fall.

The Salem Lions Wood Bank has been very active. To date, we have donated and/or sold approximately 10 cords of firewood to residents in town. We still have available a supply of cut and split firewood delivered free to Salem seniors. Contact Lion Jim Fogarty at 859-0108.

One of the goals of Lions Clubs International Foundations (LCIF) is the prevention of blindness and vision problems. Studies have found that the earlier vision problems are identified in children, the better the chance for correction. Many children have vision problems that, in many cases, are easily

correctible if identified early, but are not identified until the child has problems in school or sports.

Using vision screening equipment owned by Lions District 23-C, Salem Lions is planning a free Vision Screening program for preschool children in Salem. The screening takes only a few seconds as the child looks at a happy face in a hand held infrared camera. Screening can identify refractive errors including astigmatism, nearsightedness, farsightedness, differences between the two eyes, and other visual abnormalities. The information acquired is used to assess the child's vision in as little as five seconds. A printed report is available immediately to the parent. Watch for further information

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Calling all Kids – Annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 31, 2012 at Salem School. Prizes for Egg Coloring and Poster contests. Get your baskets ready for the egg hunt. Co-sponsored with the Recreation Commission.
- Serious and Recreational Runners – Planning is in full swing for a bigger, better 19th Annual Salem Road Race on April 14, 2012. This 5K race will be run on a challenging course closed to traffic and frequented by local families, running enthusiasts, upcoming local talent, as well as top level local runners. A 1.0 mile Fun Run will be open to all children who register. An awards ceremony and refreshments follow the events. Free t-shirts will be given to the first 100 people who pre-register and to children whose 1.0 mile Fun Run entries are postmarked by March 31. A limited supply of t-shirts will also be for sale at Salem School on race day. Visit our Road Race Web site at www.salemctroadrace.org for details and registration information.
- Calling all graduating Salem High School Seniors! Salem Lions will again award two scholarships to Salem students in this year's graduating class (public, private, or home schools). The recipients and their parents will be our guests at our June 28th dinner meeting. Application forms will be available in early April at your school guidance office or by calling Lion George Ziegra at 859-0609.
- Giant Tag Sale – Salem Lions will hold their Annual Tag Sale on Saturday, June 30, 2012, at the corner of Route 82 and Shingle Mill Road. Many items for everyone (maybe even a kitchen sink). Donated items are welcome. Contact Lion George Ziegra at 859-0609 for information. Everyone is welcome; tell your friends and neighbors. This is our major fundraiser to support our scholarship awards and numerous community projects.

Remember: Salem Lions collect used and unwanted eye glasses and hearing Aids. Donations may be given to any Salem Lion or dropped in the collection box at the Salem library.

Thank you all for supporting our projects and fundraisers; 100% of all donations and all the profits from our fundraisers are returned to our community charitable projects. Salem Lions are proud to be of service to Salem.

Salem Youth Baseball League Legacy Award

On December 4, 2011, three young men were awarded the Salem Youth Baseball League Legacy Award at a dinner at the Salem firehouse. Kyle Anthony, Sean Mulholland and James Barrows II were given the honor for their dedication to baseball in Salem by participating every season from T-ball through Babe Ruth (approximately 5 years old through 18 years of age)! Pictured, from left to right, are James, Sean, and SYBL Commissioner Alfonso Giansanti, who presented the awards. Kyle could not be present, so the award was accepted by his father Don. Congratulations on this amazing achievement!



Salem Green Cemetery Association

Submitted by Rev. Tim Dubeau, Sexton

The annual meeting of the Salem Green Cemetery Association is scheduled for April 17 at 2:00 p.m. in the Salem Town Hall.

From 10/22/2011 to 01/31/2012 there have been two inurnments/interments.

Name	Location	Date Inurned/Interred
Helena Mlynarski	IA30	12/30/2011
Edward Radics	IA24+	12/31/2011

As you can imagine, the snow plowing of the cemetery can be very challenging at times depending on the severity of the storms. Please be patient following winter storms as we try to provide adequate space for vehicles. If allowed, winter burials require the movement of a lot of snow to make room for trucks, heavy equipment and soil. If your plot(s) has (have) been disturbed in any way, the Salem Green Cemetery Association will make all the necessary corrections/repairs in the spring.

A reminder: SGCA bylaws require all holiday decorations to be removed within one month of the holiday. Also, April 15 is the last day artificial flowers may decorate plots. Those decorations/flowers remaining after the specified dates will be removed at the discretion of the SGCA sexton.

Contact the SGCA sexton, Rev. Tim Dubeau at 860-859-1925 with questions or if interested in purchasing one or more plots.

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Salem School Preschool Lottery and Child Identification

Submitted by Benjamin Dix, Salem School District's Director of Special Programs

The Salem preschool lottery for the 2012-2013 school year will be held on May 31, 2012. The preschool program at Salem School is designed to provide learning activities for eligible special education students, ages three and four, with a balanced number of their regular education peers. Special education students are identified through the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) process. Regular education students are chosen by lottery from those whose parents have expressed an interest in having their child placed on the lottery list for the program. Regular education students must be three years old by September 1, 2012, and cannot be eligible for kindergarten; that is, cannot have reached the age of five on or before January 1, 2013.



The preschool program is tentatively planned for five days a week, Monday through Friday, from 8:40 to 11:35 a.m. Tuition and transportation for regular education children will be the responsibility of the parent. If you are interested in more information or would like your child placed in the lottery pool, please call Salem School at 860-859-3988 by May 21, 2012.

RESPONSIBILITY



Salem Elementary School hosted its second School Spirit Assembly on Friday, January 27th. The theme for this student-led assembly was **RESPONSIBILITY**. Each grade level presented a song, skit, or poem (and even filmed a commercial) to promote its safe school climate. The audience marveled over the fourth grade presentation in which a fourth-grade student, Jacqueline Silveira, wrote lyrics to create a song about responsibility based on a Taylor Swift melody. She then practiced it and taught her song to the entire fourth-grade group, who performed it for all to see.

Old Lyme Area Cable Advisory Council Announces 2012 Scholarship

The Old Lyme Area Cable Advisory Council has provided information about its 2012 scholarship program to Guidance Departments at the high schools serving the towns represented by the Council: Hale-Ray (East Haddam), East Lyme High School (for a Salem student attending), Haddam-Killingworth (for a Haddam Neck student attending), and Lyme-Old Lyme High School.

The Council initiated its scholarship program in 2010, offering award(s) of up to \$1000 for graduating seniors from member towns planning to enter a communications program or a communications related field after high school graduation.

In 2010, scholarship awards were presented to four Lyme-Old Lyme High School graduates: Sophie Bakoledis, Sarah Briscoe, Megan Devlin, and Sarah Schmidt.

In 2011, scholarships were awarded to three graduating seniors: Dane Paracuelles of Haddam-Killingworth High School, and Sophia G. Harvey and Elissa F. DeBruyn of Lyme-Old Lyme High School.

The Old Lyme Area Cable Advisory Council meets quarterly and represents the towns of East Haddam, Haddam Neck, Lyme, Old Lyme, and Salem.

For additional information on the Council or its scholarship program, visit its Web page:

www.oldlyme-ct.gov/Pages/OldLymeCT_BComm/cable. Scholarship applications may also be downloaded from the page. Scholarship applications must be postmarked/e-mailed no later than March 31.

Personal Ad Section

Another happy year
in the saddle, gone;
so many more yet to come!



Happy 12th birthday
Carley!

Love, Mom, Dad, Andrei,
Max and Bunky



Edward James (Teddy) Teixeira Moffat was born on 11-11-11 to Jonathan & Colleen Teixeira Moffat of Alexandria, VA. The very proud grandparents are Phil & Sandy Teixeira of Salem, CT, Kathy Johnson of E. Lyme, CT, and Mitchell Moffat of Canterbury, CT.



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Who Wants a Garden Plot?

There are garden plots available at the organic Salem Community Garden located next to the school parking lot! Each plot is about 10 x 10 feet in size. It costs \$20.00 to rent a plot for an entire season; cash or checks are accepted.

If you want to grow healthy organic food and enjoy friendship, get a little exercise and have fun, this may be just the opportunity you've been looking for! Check out the blog, salemarden.wordpress.com, for more information. If you're interested, please contact Thean Yeoh at 860 823 0170 or email him at yeoh@yahoo.com.

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What's Selling In Salem

by Liz Householder, CG Real Estate

Do you need to hire a contractor at your home? Follow a few simple rules to avoid trouble.

Spring is the start of the busiest selling season in real estate, and also a time when people start looking at home improvement projects. Sometimes, the two coincide when sellers find issues that need to be corrected before they can sell his house. So, here are a few suggestions to make sure you hire the right contractor to do the job, and not wind up with more problems than solutions at the end of the process!

Do shop around and get several written quotes on the job before signing any contract. Ask for references and, if possible, go take a look at work that was done by the contractor you want to hire. Also go on the State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (www.ct.gov/dcp) and make sure they are licensed to do the job you are hiring them to do. Also check them out with the Better Business Bureau.

Do make sure the contract has a retention clause, usually ten percent, that you keep until the job is done to your satisfaction. Keep a job file, and ask your contractor before he starts whether there will be any inconveniences to you and your family during the job. Make sure you fully understand the contract and that all the details you asked for are in it. Don't sign it if you don't understand it!

Which brings us to some things you should avoid when working with contractors. For one thing, don't hire an unlicensed contractor, and don't hire your neighbor's best friend or co-worker's brother-in-law unless they have a license and you've seen their work. Cheaper sometimes becomes a lot more expensive if you have to hire someone else to fix their mistakes.

Don't make a down payment more than the legal limit, which is about ten percent of the total contract.

Don't let your payments get ahead of the completed work – if there's a schedule of payments, make sure the work follows the same schedule! It follows that you don't want to make the final payment until you are happy with the work the contractor has done.

Word of mouth is one of the best ways to find a contractor, so don't hesitate to ask your friends and neighbors. Real estate agents deal with contractors a lot, also, and can help you find the contractor you need. Or just call me at 860-705-7373 and I can recommend people that I've used myself at home, or have worked for my buyers or sellers at their houses. The new year is here, it's time to get your home in order! By the way, CG Real Estate is the only real estate agency in Salem. We're here to serve you, and we're right at Salem Four Corners, next to Farm to Hearth and above Wings 'n Things!



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Our Town Salem

Our Town Salem (OTS) is a magazine published quarterly to enhance the lives of Salem residents through articles that inform, encourage and celebrate the people, activities, businesses and organizations in town. OTS is produced entirely by volunteers and is distributed free of charge inside the *Lyme Times*, thanks to the businesses, organizations and individuals who place their ads! OTS producers feel strongly that:

**Forms for 2012 business and personal ads will be on town Web site.
Rates for personal ads reduced!**

At its best, OTS features the people of Salem and that will happen with your participation:

- Send us a photo and caption, write a story, or give us leads on stories one of our volunteers could write! Contact Elizabeth Regan at ecregan@sbcglobal.net or 860-859-2621.
- Take out a personal ad to recognize birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and other achievements! Contact Kerri Salan at fivesalan@yahoo.com.
- Give us leads of businesses who would like to be featured in and/or advertise in OTS. Contact Sue Weber at msweber1@aol.com or (860) 204-9020.

OUR TOWN – SALEM 2012

All articles submitted for publication must be accompanied by the writer's name, address, and phone number so that the submission can be verified. The chairperson and her/his designee must sign articles submitted by town committees.

Our Town – Salem reserves the right to edit all articles for grammar, clarity, brevity, and taste. All articles will be checked for factual content, and articles containing unattributable statements will not be accepted. *Our Town – Salem* is published quarterly by volunteer residents of the town of Salem. Your participation is welcomed!

Volunteer Staff

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